
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 1, 1855.

Mr. DAWSON, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported the following bill; which was read and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

Incorporating the Metropolitan Mechanics' Institute, for the promotion of manufactures, commerce, and the mechanic arts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the members of the METROPOLITAN MECHANICS' INSTI-
4 TUTE, for the promotion of manufactures, commerce, and the
5 mechanic arts, and all those who shall hereafter become mem-
6 bers, shall be, and are hereby, incorporated and created a body
7 politic, by the name, style, and title of the "METROPOLITAN
8 MECHANICS' INSTITUTE;" and by that name shall have suc-
9 cession, and be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, to
10 plead and be impleaded, in any court of record or elsewhere;
11 to make, have, and use, a common seal, and the same at
12 pleasure to alter or renew; to receive donations, gifts, grants,
13 devises, and bequests, or other conveyances of money, goods,
14 chattels, effects, lands, tenements, and estates, real and per-

sonal, and the same to hold, use, sell, or otherwise dispose of and convey, and generally to do all such acts, matters, and things as are or shall be necessary to carry into full effect the objects of the said corporation: *Provided, always,* That the property owned by said corporation shall not exceed in value two hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the members of the said corporation shall consist of manufacturers, merchants, mechanics, artizans, and persons friendly to the mechanic and useful arts, who shall hereafter be elected in such manner, and pay such sum annually, or in gross, or an annual or life subscription, as the constitution or by-laws of the said corporation shall appoint and require: *Provided, always,* That two-thirds of the board of directors of said corporation shall be practical manufacturers or mechanics.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the objects of the said corporation shall be the encouragement and promotion of manufactures, commerce, and the mechanic and useful arts, by the establishment of popular lectures upon the sciences connected with them; by the formation of a school of design and schools of chemistry and physics adapted to mechanical and manufacturing purposes; by providing a library, reading-room and a cabinet of minerals, models and mechanical apparatus; by holding at stated times exhibitions or fairs for articles of American manufacture; by offering premiums

11 or awards for excellence in those branches of national indus-
 12 try deemed worthy of encouragement; by examining new in-
 13 ventions submitted for that purpose; by the establishment of
 14 professorships and the conferring of degrees, and by such other
 15 means necessary for the accomplishment of their objects as
 16 experience may suggest.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the affairs of the said
 2 corporation shall be conducted and managed by a president,
 3 a board of management, and by such other officers, and in
 4 such manner as the constitution or by-laws of the same shall
 5 authorize and provide; that such officers and directors shall be
 6 elected annually at a meeting of the said corporation to be
 7 held in the city of Washington on the third Wednesday in
 8 April; and that until the third Wednesday in April, in the
 9 year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, the present
 10 officers and directors of the society, to wit: Joseph Henry,
 11 LL. D., president; John C. Harkness, Walter Lenox, John
 12 W. Maury, and B. B. French, vice presidents; Thomas M.
 13 O'Brien, recording secretary; Charles F. Stansbury, corre-
 14 pending secretary; Joseph Bryan, treasurer; W. H. Ward,
 15 financial secretary; Hollis Amidon, librarian, and A. Baldwin,
 16 W. W. Birth, William M. Ellis, W. D. Brackenridge, Wil-
 17 liam McL. Cripps, L. D. Gale, William Dougherty, Thomas
 18 B. Entwistle, Robert Farnham, Peter Force, George W.
 19 Garrett, James F. Haliday, Lewis Haslup, D. Hepburn, Fran-

20 cis Mattingly, Francis Mohun, Peter M. Pearson, Henry
21 Polkinhorn, George F. Rider, James A. Tait, William B.
22 Todd, John T. Towers, William H. Winter, and Charles F.
23 Wood, directors, shall conduct the affairs of the said corpora-
24 tion conformably to the constitution and articles promised and
25 agreed to by the members previous to the passage of this act.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That the duties and rights of
2 the members of the said corporation, the power and functions
3 of the officers thereof, mode of supplying vacancies in office,
4 the time of meeting of said corporation and of the board of
5 management, the members which shall constitute a quorum at
6 any such meeting, the mode of electing members, the terms
7 of their admission, the causes which shall justify their suspen-
8 sion or expulsion from the corporation, and all other concerns
9 of said corporation, shall be regulated by the constitution and
10 by-laws of said corporation now existing, and hereafter to be
11 made, which the said corporation is hereby authorized and
12 empowered to make and alter in the manner which may be
13 therein mentioned : *Provided*, that said constitution and by-
14 laws shall not be repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the Con-
15 stitution or laws of the United States, or of the District of
16 Columbia.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That said corporation shall
2 not issue any note, scrip, or bill of credit, to circulate as a
3 currency.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That said act of incorpo-
2 ration shall enure for thirty years, and until revoked by Con-
3 gress, and that Congress reserves to itself the right to amend
4 or repeal the same at pleasure.